

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims

Please cancel claims 50-98 and substitute the following new claims 99-145 therefore.

1-98 (Cancelled)

99. (New) A composition for use in a dishwashing machine, comprising a tablet composition comprising an ionic compound which deploys its function in a main cleaning cycle of the dishwashing machine, a particle having a core, the particle incorporating a substance intended to perform its function during a rinsing cycle of the dishwashing machine, and an envelope surrounding the core, the envelope comprising a compound whose solubility is inversely proportional to a concentration of the ionic compound in a surrounding medium, wherein the particle is arranged in or on the tablet such that only a portion of a surface of the particle directly contacts the tablet, wherein the concentration of the ionic compound caused by dissolution of the tablet in the main cleaning cycle is sufficiently high to prevent dissolution of the envelope or detachment of the envelope from the particle core.

100. (New) The composition according to claim 99, in which the particle is coated with a substance which, independently of the concentration of the ionic compound in the surrounding medium, dissolves or separates from the particle during the main rinsing cycle of the dishwashing machine.

101. (New) The composition according to claim 99, in which the particle is received in a cavity of the tablet wherein the cavity surrounds the particle.

102. (New) The composition according to claim 101, in which the particle has a same volume as the cavity.

103. (New) The composition according to claim 101, in which the cavity has a larger volume than the particle contained therein.

104. (New) The composition according to claim 103, in which the particle is loosely arranged in an interior of the cavity.

105. (New) The composition according to claim 103, in which the particle is fixed in an interior of the cavity.

106. (New) The composition according to claim 105, in which the particle is fixed by an adhesive.

107. (New) The composition according to claim 101, in which the cavity is substantially centrally positioned in an interior of the tablet.

108. (New) The composition according to claim 107, in which the tablet has a single spherical cavity.

109. (New) The composition according to claim 108, in which the cavity contains a single spherical particle whose diameter is less than an internal diameter of the cavity.

110. (New) The composition according to claim 99, in which the particle is received in a cavity of the tablet, wherein the cavity only partly surrounds the particle.

111. (New) The composition according to claim 99, in which the particle is received in a depression in a surface of the tablet.

112. (New) The composition according to claim 110, in which the particle is placed in the cavity in such a way that it does not project beyond the surface of the tablet.

113. (New) The composition according to claim 111, in which the particle is placed in the depression in such a way that it does not project beyond the surface of the tablet.

114. (New) The composition according to claim 112, in which the cavity contains a single particle, whose volume equals that of the cavity.

115. (New) The composition according to claim 114, in which the cavity has a circular mouth.

116. (New) The composition according to claim 115, in which the mouth of the cavity is smaller than a diameter of the particle received therein.

117. (New) The composition according to claim 116, in which the particle is loosely arranged in the cavity.

118. (New) The composition according to claim 116, in which the particle is fixed in the cavity.

119. (New) The composition according to claim 118, in which the particle is fixed by an adhesive.

120. (New) The composition according to claim 99, in which the tablet comprises a composition selected from the group consisting of a machine dishwashing agent composition, a water softener composition, a washing intensifier composition, and combinations thereof.

121. (New) The composition according to claim 99, in which the envelope incorporates a compound which at the concentration of the ionic compound, at the end of the main cleaning cycle of the dishwashing machine, is insoluble or only slightly soluble and, at a concentration of the ionic compound in the clear rinsing cycle, the envelope compound has an adequate solubility to ensure that it is dissolved or detached from the core such that release of the core material into a medium of the clear rinsing cycle is possible.

122. (New) The composition according to claim 121, in which a solubility of the envelope compound is inversely proportional to OH-ionic concentration in the surrounding medium.

123. (New) The composition according to claim 122, wherein at a pH-value above 10 the envelope compound has no or only a limited solubility and at a pH-value below 9 has a solubility such that it becomes dissolved or detached from the particle core.

124. (New) The composition according to claim 121, in which the envelope compound comprises a polymer.

125. (New) The composition according to claim 124, in which the envelope compound comprises a pH-sensitive polymer incorporating a repeat unit having a basic function which does not form part of a backbone chain of the polymer.

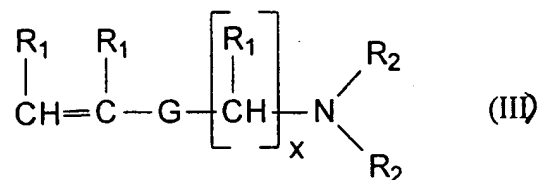
126. (New) The composition according to claim 125, in which the repeat unit is based on a compound selected from the group consisting of vinyl alcohol derivatives, acrylates and alkyl acrylates having the basic function.

127. (New) The composition according to claim 125, in which the polymer is carbohydrate functionalized with the basic function.

128. (New) The composition according to claim 125, in which the basic function is an amine.

129. (New) The composition according to claim 128, in which the amine is a secondary or tertiary amine.

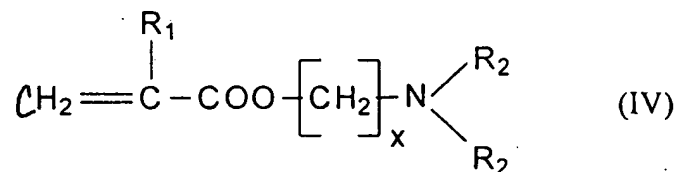
130. (New) The composition according to claim 128, in which the repeat unit is based on a compound of formula III:



in which

G is a linking group selected from -COO-, -OCO-, -CONH-, -NHCO-, -NHCONH-, -NHCOO-, -OCONH- or -OCOO-, each R₁ is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms, each R₂ is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and x is an integer from 1 to 6.

131. (New) The composition according to claim 130, in which the repeat unit is based on a compound of formula IV:



in which

R₁ hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms, each R₂ is hydrogen or an alkyl group 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and x is an integer from 1 to 6.

132. (New) The composition according to claim 125, in which the basic function is an imine.

133. (New) The composition according claim 125, in which the basic function is a basic aromatic N-containing group.

134. (New) The composition according to claim 133, in which the basic function is a pyridine group.

135. (New) The composition according to claim 133, in which the basic function is an imidazole group.

136. (New) The composition according to claim 122, in which the polymer is derived from chitosan.

137. (New) The composition according to claim 122, in which the composition incorporates k-carrageenan.

138. (New) The composition according to claim 99, in which the core incorporates a material selected from the group consisting of surfactants, antibacterial compositions, silver protection agents, fragrances, bleaches, disinfectants, odor masking agents, anti-coating agents, enzymes, and combinations thereof.

139. (New) The composition according to claim 138, in which the core is in a form of an encapsulated liquid.

140. (New) The composition according to claim 139, in which the encapsulated liquid is contained in a gelatin capsule.

141. (New) The composition according to claim 138, in which the core is in solid form.

142. (New) The composition according to claim 99, in which the core has a melting point higher than 35°C.

143. (New) The composition according to claim 142, in which the core has a melting point between 55°C and 70°C.

144. (New) A process for washing dishes in a dishwashing machine, which comprises introducing into the dishwashing machine a composition comprising a tablet composition comprising an ionic compound which deploys its function in a main cleaning cycle of the dishwashing machine, a particle having a core, the particle incorporating a substance intended to perform its function during a cycle of the dishwashing machine, and an envelope surrounding the core, the envelope comprising a compound whose solubility is inversely proportional to a concentration of the ionic compound in a surrounding medium, wherein the particle is arranged in or on the tablet such that only a portion of a surface of the particle directly contacts the tablet, wherein the concentration of the ionic compound caused by dissolution of the tablet in the main cleaning cycle is sufficiently high to prevent dissolution of the envelope or detachment of the envelope from the particle core.

145. (New) The process according to claim 144, comprising an additional step of introducing an additional dishwashing agent into said dishwashing machine.